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Students make their way to Sunday services at Pensacola Christian College, where they must follow the rules or face swift discipline.

Holier Than U.

Secretive Pensacola Christian governs every aspect of its students' lives, from the books they read to the shoes they wear. Dissidents call it cruel and capricious: **A40**

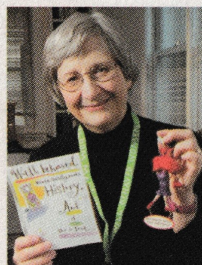
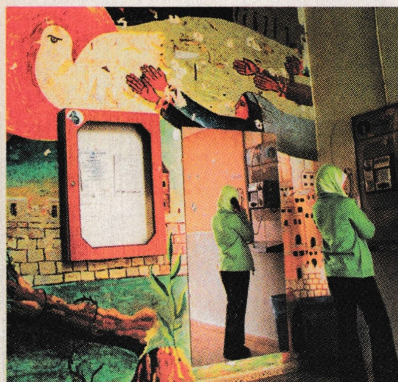
Suburban Makeover, Scholarly Edition

A new generation of academics finds past studies of urban sprawl oversimplified and elitist: **A16**



A West Bank University Works With Israel

Al-Quds U. draws Palestinian scorn but international aid: **A48**



The Well-Behaved Feminist

Laurel Ulrich created

a rallying cry for the women's movement, but her own life seems to contradict the slogan: **A12**

College Board Takes Heat for Debacle in SAT Scoring

Discovery of more errors in marking tests shakes confidence in the system

BY ANNE K. WALTERS
AND ELIZABETH F. FARRELL

THE MISCALCULATION of some 4,000 SAT scores affected only a small portion of the 500,000 students who took the test in October, but the impact of the gaffe for both the College Board and its contractor, Pearson Educational Measurement, continued to grow late last week.

Lawyers began seeking out affected students as potential litigants, and admissions officials became more skeptical about the College Board's credibility as a pattern of inconsistent information about the nature and extent of the SAT problem emerged.

"This really does shake our confidence in the whole system," said Jason C. Locke, associate provost for undergraduate admissions and enrollment at Cornell University. "My guess is if there isn't more information forthcoming, the counseling community and the admissions community are going to demand to learn more about this whole process."

Also last week, the College Board announced that it must re-examine an additional 1,600 exams that were overlooked in the organization's initial efforts to remedy the problem.

When the College Board began reviewing answer sheets from tests taken in October, it found scanning errors in 4,000 tests that resulted in scores that were too low and errors in 600 that gave falsely high scores. But the organization forgot to include in that review 1,600 exams that had been set aside for further review for other reasons, a mistake it uncovered last week.

Those exams were under "administrative hold" at the Educational Testing Service and were not in the same

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THIS WEEK

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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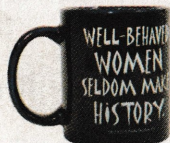
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THE FACULTY

- A12 From Stay-at-Home Mom to Harvard Star**
How an unlikely feminist changed the field of history.

A10 PEER REVIEW

A12 SYLLABUS



RESEARCH



A family in Levittown, N.Y., in 1948

- A16 Remapping the Suburbs**
A new wave of scholars challenges common assumptions about sprawl and urban growth.
- A20 The French philosopher Alain Badiou** creates a buzz in America with a flurry of new books in translation.
- A21 A former editor at "Physics Today"** who says his 2000 firing was unfair has won a settlement from the American Institute of Physics.
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A Republican lawmaker in Pennsylvania, spurred on by the political activist David Horowitz, pushes forward with hearings on alleged left-wing bias on college campuses.
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The president of Case Western Reserve U. has resigned as the university grapples with a budget deficit and falling donations.
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A database sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges can preserve historic architectural features on the campus of any member institution, at least online.
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A group of professors at Kaplan U. is trying to form the first faculty union at an online college.
- A38 Robots that act in an off-off-Broadway play** were built by two graduates of NYU's interactive-telecommunications program.
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STUDENTS

- A1 Poor Score for College Board**
Problems in the scoring of a second group of SAT exams have led students and admissions officers to wonder what's going on with the widely used tests.
- A40 Holier Than U. ▶**
Pensacola Christian College controls student life with strict rules. That doesn't bother some students as much as the realization, later on, that the college's lack of accreditation can harm them.
- A44 Depressed and Litigious**
A lawsuit filed against George Washington U. has complicated colleges' efforts to deal with troubled students.
- A45** STUDENT NOTES



Nearly 5,000 Pensacola Christian College students and faculty members meet daily for morning services.

MORE ▶

ON THE FRONT PAGE AND ABOVE: PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE BY BRUCE GRANER, PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL; SPRAWL BY JIM WARK, AIRPHOTO; AL-QUIDS U. BY JEROEN KRAMER FOR THE CHRONICLE; LAUREL ULRICH BY RICHARD HOWARD FOR THE CHRONICLE
ON THESE PAGES: LEVITTOWN FAMILY FROM BERNARD HOFFMAN, GETTY IMAGES; PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE BY KATIE KING, PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL

"pure multiplicity," and those "elements of multiplicity are multiple themselves," then set theory is an ideal way to approach ontological questions.

LOVE, POETRY, AND TRUTH

Being and Event uses set theory to interrogate philosophers from Plato to Pascal to Heidegger. At his talk, Mr. Badiou observed that it is not merely those in the humanities who are uncomfortable with that tactic.

"Mathematicians don't know that mathematics is ontology," he quipped with evident delight.

As the discussion with Mr. Critchley moved from "being" to "event," the French philosopher struck a biographical note. He observed that his thoughts on those questions were stimulated by his experiences

during and after the political and cultural upheavals in Paris in 1968. Mr. Badiou, who was swept up in the fierce leftist political debates of the time, remains largely committed to the ideals embodied in the tumult of that year.

"I have had a living experiment of something new," he said, "and when something happens that is novelty, you have the birth of a new subject."

Grappling with how Mr. Badiou defines "event" is more complicated, perhaps, than all of the set theory. In essence, an "event" is a clear break with the status quo. That break creates what Mr. Badiou defines as a "truth." The break that creates the truth also creates a "subject," which takes its definition from what the philosopher calls the subject's "fidelity" to that singular truth.

It is slippery stuff indeed, but Mr.

Badiou offered his audience the metaphor of falling in love as a way to grasp it. Two people meet and fall in love, which is a break from their previous status quo. It creates a "truth" (they are in love), and that condition of being in love (the "subject") is defined by their fidelity to that love.

"Love is an event in the form of an encounter," and it has the effect of forming "a new relation to the world," said Mr. Badiou.

He sees those creations of truth as manifesting themselves in four main arenas: art, love, science, and politics. Much of his work since writing *Being and Event* has been devoted to exploring how the implications of his philosophy ripple through those areas.

As a novelist and playwright as well as a philosopher, Mr. Badiou

has a keen sense of the interplay between poetics and philosophy. The latter part of the forum involved aphorisms that connect those two disciplines, particularly in his own thought.

"There is always, in every truth procedure, a poetic moment," he said. "The finding of a new name. . . . We cannot even know a truth event without a sense of poetry."

POLITICS AND FABLE

Much of the discussion between Mr. Critchley and Mr. Badiou eschewed the political in favor of an explication of the philosophical work in *Being and Event*. But when the conversation was opened up the audience, sparks flew about the implications of Mr. Badiou's work for politics and religion.

In response to one question, ask-

ing him to link his philosophy to contemporary politics, Mr. Badiou noted that "names in politics are impoverished. . . . The weakness of politics today is a weakness of poetry."

The fall of communism, he continued, influenced that impoverishment. "Marxism," he said, "had a constellation of names" for political concepts. "It was a sky of names. We lost the sky."

Mr. Badiou also took considerable interest in a question about why religion was excluded from the areas that he identifies as sites for the work of philosophy. He said that the question of why he had limited such areas to four came up often, and "my answer is that I don't find another."

He said he had concluded that religion was "a fable about an event, and not an event." ■

Physics Editor Wins Settlement in Case Over Discrimination

BY RICHARD MONASTERSKY

TIME HAS finally been good to Jeff Schmidt. The former staff editor at *Physics Today* was fired in 2000, purportedly for claiming in a book to have stolen hours from his employer, the American Institute of Physics. After fighting his termination for six years, however, Mr. Schmidt won back his job, his reputation, and an undisclosed financial award in a legal settlement announced this week.

The time issue had always been a red herring, say friends of Mr. Schmidt. His lawsuit alleges that he was fired for protesting discriminatory hiring practices at the academic magazine, which publishes news articles and research papers.

The institute admits no wrongdoing in the settlement, but it does say that Mr. Schmidt consistently received positive job reviews and much praise from his supervisors. The institute rehired Mr. Schmidt, who immediately resigned, with the institute's promise of positive references.

Mr. Schmidt was fired after his boss read an article in *The Chronicle* describing his book, *Disciplined Minds: A Critical Look at Salaried Professionals and the Soul-Battering System That Shapes Their Lives* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2000). The book starts: "This book was stolen. Written in part on stolen time, that is." Mr. Schmidt goes on to argue that most professionals are dissatisfied with their lives because they have ceded control of their political and creative selves to their employers.

ALTERED EVALUATIONS

At the time, Marc H. Brodsky, executive director of the institute, said he fired Mr. Schmidt for making the claim of stealing time in his book, a statement reiterated in the legal settlement. But documents disclosed during the discovery phase of the case hint at other issues. For example, a positive performance review Mr. Schmidt received in February 1997 was altered eight months later to say he was disruptive at

meetings. That happened immediately after Mr. Schmidt had raised his concerns in a meeting that *Physics Today* was not seeking to hire members of minority groups, according to Sanjoy Mahajan, a supporter of Mr. Schmidt and a lecturer in physics at the University of Cambridge, in England.

Mr. Mahajan has posted on his Web site documents from the case and other related material, including past *Chronicle* articles, which Mr.

A positive performance review Jeff Schmidt received was altered eight months later to say he was disruptive at meetings.

Schmidt was forced to remove from his own Web site because of the terms of the settlement.

Mr. Schmidt cannot disclose the size of the settlement, but Mr. Mahajan estimates it is well over \$500,000.

Mr. Mahajan was one of 750 physicists and other academics, including Noam Chomsky, who signed public letters denouncing the firing of Mr. Schmidt. "It was the public pressure within the physics community and outside of it that forced them to settle," says Mr. Mahajan.

The institute's Mr. Brodsky declined to comment on the settlement.

Mr. Schmidt says he never actually stole time because he wrote during his breaks. The exaggeration was a nod to the political gadfly Abbie Hoffman (author of the 1971 counterculture classic *Steal This Book*), he says, adding that "writing this radical book during break time in the office felt like stealing time because the ideas that I was expressing seemed so out of place with the corporate-type atmosphere of the office. So I felt like a thought criminal." ■

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Research & Books

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